REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING April 16, 1992 - 7:00 P.m. Jackie Robinson Center 1020 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Marvin Greer, at 7:15 p.m.

Present:

Susan Arcaris
Elias Galvan
Edward Garlock
Marvin Greer
Ann Hickambottom
Dr. James King, Jr.
Edward Maya
Fred Register
Rosemary Schroeder

Absent:

William Bogaard, Chairman Christina Cook Edward J. Matys Joe Morales Paul Secord Christopher Sutton

Staff:

Victor Kaleta, City Attorney Donald Nollar, Director, PBNS Maria Stewart, Acting City Clerk

Consultants:

David Ely, Pactech Manuel Valencia, Valencia, Maldonado & Echeveste

OPENING REMARKS

Vice Chairman Marvin Greer opened the meeting by asking all Task Force members and staff present to introduce themselves. He also announced that this was a community meeting to get public input on four concepts for redrawing district lines for the City. He added that the City Attorney would explain the legal framework.

CITY ATTORNEY

Victor Kaleta, the City Attorney, described the criteria given for consideration to the Task Force. Mainly, that only seven districts be considered; that districts be nearly as equal in population as possible; that voting strength not be diluted; that districts be cohesive and compact; that division be along census block lines; and, that the Task Force strive to include all elements of Pasadena in their recommendations.

PACTECH

David Ely, of Pachtech, reviewed each of the four concepts individually, explaining the points considered when drawing the boundary lines as shown on each map.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Minister Salaam Allah asked how many homes would be lost through eminent domain once the lines were redrawn. Vice Chairman Greer explained that this was not an issue of eminent domain.

Nadine Rondanella expressed concern about Concept A because it separates the South Lake Business District from the southern neighborhoods. The South Lake Business District Association wants to work closely with the Huntington Hotel. Also, the separation leaves Concept D almost all renters.

Hanna Roberts, resident, spoke in opposition to any split of District 1.

John Olinski, member of Madison Heights Neighborhood Association, expressed concern regarding Concept A making District 1 too large and combining too many neighborhoods with different community interests. He added Concepts B, C and D would maintain a more compact group of Districts and allow neighborhood associations to be represented by one Councilmember instead of two.

Audrey Brentley, resident, spoke in opposition to splitting District 1, and preferred Concept C over the others.

Lou Richards, resident, stated he was disappointed with the convolution of the boundary lines. He said they would have a negative effect on voter activity.

Ms. Roberta Brentenall supported all comments made by Ms. Brentley and stated her opposition to the split of District 1 and preference for Concept C.

Mr. Ernest Jones expressed his support for Concept C and said it made District C bigger. The City Attorney explained that all Districts contained approximately the same percentage of population.

Arnold Segal, resident, stated Concept A made no sense if the intent was to create community of common interests. He added that, although he was not in support of splitting District 1, if it had to be done, Concept B made more sense.

Joseph Hopkins received answers to his questions regarding disparities among the current Districts, the location of the Latino population, and the issue of splitting District 1.

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Ms. Suzanne McManigal, member of the South Lake Avenue Business Association, expressed her opposition to splitting South Lake Avenue down the middle and the need to keep that financial district intact. Dr. James King, Task Force member, added that in the same way, Concept A splits Caltech campus through the middle.

Magdaleno Muro, resident, questioned whether the efforts were to split one race from another, i.e., the Blacks from the Whites, the Hispanics from the Blacks, the rich from the poor. He added that mostly low income people live in Districts 2 and 3 but that efforts seemed to be concentrated on the wealthy areas.

Victor Cuadra, resident, questioned whether the purpose served by all districts touching on Colorado Boulevard and asked if the Task Force had considered drawing boundary lines beyond Colorado Boulevard, north and south. He added that there was no pattern to the districts, and asked if future demographic shifts did not make it more practical to have more symmetrical districts.

Michael Coppess, Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association, expressed opposition to the splitting of North Lake Avenue as it would result in it having two representatives instead of the current one which would cause a loss of voice for the neighborhood associations in that area.

Frank Rocha stated that to date, he had not seen any evidence of maximizing the Latino representation. He added all he had seen was evidence of "cracking" and gerrymandering.

Gloria Hentrell, President of King's Villages Association, stated her opposition to splitting District 1 and added that all groups should stay together and not be separated by race.

Harry Washington, resident, stated that the Task Force needed to explain more clearly its charge to the public and that communities needed a representative that thought and felt the same way residents thought and felt.

Magdaleno Muro, resident, stated that individuals in Districts 2 and 3 being affected by the redistricting effort had not been notified of the meeting dates, as had been alleged.

Steven Mack, resident, stated he didn't approve of the method of creating a Hispanic district. He added the Task Force needed to go to neighborhoods and speak to individuals on a one-to-one basis.

Sister Halimah Allah, resident, stated that as a businesswoman in an enterprise zone, her concern was that the zone get the benefit of federal monies being funded.

Nadine Rondinella, resident, questioned why the need to create a Latino district when District 3 already had a majority Latino population. David Ely explained that there was the issue of population parity with other districts, as well as a 65% minimum Hispanic population guideline that needed to be met.

Georgia Holloway, resident, stated her opposition to splitting District 1 and asked that once new districts were created, when would they have to be changed again. The Vice Chairman advised redistricting occurred every ten years.

ADJOURNMENT:

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Vice Chairman Greer declared the end of public comment and adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m. The minutes for approval listed on the agenda to be carried over to the following meeting as there was no opportunity to approve them during this meeting.

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